

U.S. Serial No. 10/642,286
Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116
Response to 1-11-06

Atty. Docket No. 740819-1029

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability with respect to claims 7 and 16. Also, the courtesies extended by Examiner Charles throughout the telephonic interview conducted on April 7, 2006, are appreciated. During the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the foregoing amendments, and agreement was reached that the amended claims overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of independent claims 1 and 10, based on the Ohkawa et al. and Miranti, Jr. et al. documents as set forth on pages 2 to 3 of the final Office Action. However, the Examiner also asserted that the present amendments would present new issues that would require further consideration or search. Hence, the present response is being submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

By way of the present response, claims 1, 6-8 and 10-16 are amended. Claims 1, 7, 10 and 16 are amended to recite that "the indent forms a step in a part of the tension member with the use of the belt and is engaged to the step," and the remaining amendments address minor informalities discovered upon a review of the claims. In the present invention, since a portion of the rubber part of the tension member receiving compressive forces from the block causes deterioration such as deformation or wear with the use of the belt, a step is formed in the tension member by an indent of the block and then, the indent is engaged to the step. This step, even if wobbling occurs between the block and the tension member, restricts movements of the tension member in the directions of insertion and withdrawal of the block. As a result, oscillation of the block relative to the tension member can be dampened to prevent early failure of the block.

As the Examiner correctly appreciated during the interview, neither the Ohkawa et al. patent nor the Miranti, Jr. et al. patent teaches or suggests the subject matter presently recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, even when Ohkawa et al. is combined with Miranti, Jr. et al., the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 10 cannot be realized. The remaining dependent claims also are allowable at least for the reasons pointed out above, and for the additional features recited.


Now that all the claims are believed to be patentable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due is hereby earnestly solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any overage or shortage of fees connected with filing of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,


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